



COUNTY OF ALBANY
DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH
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July 30, 2025

Honorable Joanne Cunningham, Chairwoman
Albany County Legislature
112 State St., Rm. 710
Albany, NY 12207

Dear Chairwoman Cunningham,

The Department of Mental Health requests permission to amend our 2025 budget to accept and allocate \$5,330 in funding from the NYS Office of Mental Health for the expansion of Certified and Credentialed Peer Capacity within Albany County Department of Mental Health. The involvement of individuals with lived experience in the recovery journey of those facing Behavioral Health Challenges can be a significant factor in supporting successful outcomes. However, due to ongoing workforce shortages, it can be very difficult to recruit and retain individuals for these much-needed positions. We believe that providing retention incentives and increased access to training opportunities will support the growth and sustainability of the Peer Workforce in Mental Health.

Feel free to contact me or Michael Fitzgerald if you have any questions concerning this request.

Sincerely,

Stephen J. Giordano, Ph.D.
Director of Mental Health

cc: Hon. Dennis A. Feeney, Majority Leader
Hon. Frank A. Mauriello, Minority Leader
Rebekah Kennedy, Majority Counsel
James Curran, Minority Counsel